

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

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DEPT PASS DEPT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF MINES: USDOC

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TAGS: EMIN, CM

SUBJECT: REPORT OF IRON DEPOSIT

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON (GURC) ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 28 FIRST DETAILS CONCERNING MAJOR IRON DEPOSIT IN SOUTHEASTERN CAMEROON. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, A MINERALS EXPLORATION PROGRAM BEGUN UNDER CANADIAN AID AUSPICES IN 1969 HAS REVEALED A BAND OF HEMATITE (99 PER CENT) EXTENDING A LENGTH OF ABOUT 150 KM WITH A WIDTH OF SEVERAL KM IN SOME PLACES. IRON CONTECT IS ABOUT 70 PERCENT. CANADIAN FIRMS LISTED AS HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY ARE: SUNAIR LTD, TERRA SURVEYS LTD, KENTING EARTH SCIENCES LTD, PATERSON GRANT AND WATSON LTD, DERRY MICHENER LTD, AND BOOTH LTD. THESE REPORTS ARE BASED ON AERIAL MAGNETIC PROSPECTION, PHOTOGEOLOGIC STUDY AND SAMPLING. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. CANADIAN EMB HAS A COPY OF THE REPORT WHICH WE WILL TRY TO BORROW, BUT IT IS LONG AND TECHNICAL. EMBASSY CONTACTS INDICATE THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF HIGH QUALITY ORE IN THE AREA, CITING QUOTE A MOUNTAIN OF IRON END QUOTE LOCATED AT MBALAM NEAR THE BORDER WITH THE CONGO. IRON IS ALSO REPORTED ALONG THE GABONESE BORDER AND NEAR KRIBI. THE DEPOSIT AT MBALAM IS REPORTED TO HAVE AN IRON CONTENT AS HIGH AS 90 PER CENT. EVIDENCE OF GOLD HAS ALSO BEEN FOUND. ACCORDING GURC SOURCES, PAST STUDIES IN THE AREA HAVE ALSO INDICATED PRESENCE OF MANGANESE AND URANIUM IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA. SOUTHEAST CAMEROON IS ALSO THE SITE OF CAMEROON'S RICHEST TIMBER RESERVES, ESTIMATED TO BE WORTH BILLIONS OF DOLLARS. PROBLEM IS TOTAL LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE AREA FOR EXPLOITATION. UNDP HAS A PROJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR A ROAD TO LINK YOKAUMA WITH A PROPOSED NEW DEEP WATER PORT TO BE LOCATED SOUTH OF KRIBI AT ROCHER DE LOUP. HOWEVER PROPOSED ROAD WILL BE SOMEWHAT NORTH OF IRON DEPOSITS. WHILE COST OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT WILL NO DOUBT BE EXPENSIVE, COMBINED VALUE OF TIMBER AND METAL RESOURCES MAY MAKE DEVELOPMENT MORE ATTRACTIVE. END LOU.
SPIRO

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